



# NEWS RELEASE

## WYOMING DISTRICT OFFICE

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### **John Karabetsos Named Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year 2006**

**Cheyenne** – The Wyoming District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has named John Karabetsos, Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year 2006. Steve Despain, District Director, will be presenting this award to Mr. Karabetsos at the Governor's Breakfast at the Plains Hotel in Cheyenne on May 4, 2006 at 7: 30am.

This award is given to an individual who has fulfilled a commitment to advancing small business opportunities for veterans of the U.S. armed forces. Evaluation criteria includes active support for legislative or regulatory action designed to help small businesses; evidence of increased business opportunities for veterans as a result of the nominee's actions; advisory activities to improve awareness among veterans' groups of small business opportunities; advocacy of special consideration for veteran-owned small businesses in government policymaking; demonstrated accomplishment in obtaining support within the community for the establishment of veteran-owned small businesses and other accomplishments demonstrating the nominee's effective advocacy of veteran-owned small businesses. The President of the United States recognizes contributions of the small business community to the American economy and society by proclamation each year.

Mr. Karabetsos is military retired from the U.S. Air Force, attaining the rank of DMSGT. He is involved in the local community and is a strong advocate for veterans. He has participated in many forums dedicated to the assistance of veterans, and is an active member in local veterans' organizations to enhance opportunities to veterans. He is an active advocate in Cheyenne and throughout the state of Wyoming for veterans' issues and causes,, especially as they relate to economic conditions and employment. He has been an advocate of veterans through his involvement in local community and state organizations, i.e., VFW, American Legion, DAV and the Wyoming Veterans Commission; as well as serving as one of the principal planners for the semi-annual career fair hosted by the local community college. All of this involvement has provided him with opportunities to disseminate information to veterans about small business opportunities.

Additionally, John routinely partners with the local Small Business Development Center located at the community college and offers Small Business Development workshops at the base Family Support Center for ease of attendance by service members and their dependents.

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For more information about SBA's programs for small businesses, call 307-261-6500 or TDY 307-261-6527 or visit the SBA's extensive Web site at [www.sba.gov/wy](http://www.sba.gov/wy).

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